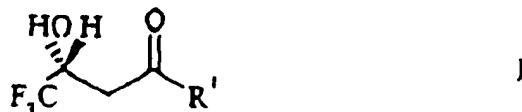


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

8. (currently amended) A process for preparing trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the general formula



wherein

- $\underline{R} + \underline{R^1}$ is (a) $-\text{OR}^2$, in which R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b) $-\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, in which R^3 and R^4 are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c) $-\text{SR}^5$, in which R^5 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl, aryl or C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl,

which process comprises:

- (i) reacting a trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivative of the general formula II



wherein $\underline{R} + \underline{R^1}$ is

- (a) $-\text{OR}^2$, in which R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, ~~C_{1-10} -alkenyl~~ C_{2-10} -alkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,

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(b) $-\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, in which R^3 and R^4 are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{4-10} -alkenyl C_{2-10} -alkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl or aryl, or

(c) $-\text{SR}^5$, in which R^5 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{4-10} -alkenyl C_{2-10} -alkenyl, aryl or C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl,

[using] with a microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia*, or cell-free extracts derived therefrom, wherein said microorganisms express an enzyme which is capable of reducing a carbonyl function enantioselectively reduces the trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivatives of formula II leading to the production of 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the formula:



wherein R^1 is

(a) $-\text{OR}^2$, in which R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl,

C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,

(b) $-\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, in which R^3 and R^4 are identical or different and represent

hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl or aryl, or

(c) $-\text{SR}^5$, in which R^5 is hydrogen, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{2-10} -alkenyl, aryl or

C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl; and

(ii) isolating said the trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives produced.

8. 9. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 8 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are transformed with a gene encoding an enzyme which ~~is capable of reducing~~ reduces a carbonyl function.

10. (previously presented) The process according of Claim 9 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli* JM109, HB101 ~~or~~ and DH5.

11. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 9 or 10 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia coli* are transformed with a gene encoding a glucose dehydrogenase

12. (previously presented) The process of Claim 11 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are transformed with the plasmids pKAR and pKKGDH, as deposited under the deposition numbers DSM 11902 and DSM 12566, respectively.

13. (previously presented) The process of Claims 8, 9, 10 or 12 wherein said process is carried out a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

14. (previously presented) The process of Claim 11 wherein said process is carried out a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

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15. (previously presented) The process according to one of Claims 8, 9, 10 or 12, wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.

16. (previously presented) The process according to ~~one of~~ Claim 11 wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.